The trend of ground water level decline over last three years varies from less than 10 cm to more than 1 m per year in different parts of the State. The water level decline of more than 1 m per year has been observed at a few places in Fatehgarh, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Nawanshahr, Patiala, and Sangrur districts.

Haryana - The depth of water level during May varies from 0.35 m bgl in Gurgaon to 47.80 m bgl in Bhiwani district whereas the depth of water level during November varies from 0.42 m bgl to 57.10 m bgl in Gurgaon district. Water logging conditions are observed in the central part of the State covering parts of Bhiwani, Hissar, Jind, Jhajjar, Rohtak and Sonipat districts and in isolated patches in Gurgaon, Panipat and Yamunanagar districts. Very deep water levels (> 40 m) occur in Bhiwani district bordering Rajasthan. The trend of water level decline over last three years varies from less than 10 cm to more than 2 m per year in different parts of the State. Water level decline of more than 1 m per year has been observed at a few places in Ambala, Fatehabad, Gurgaon, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panchkula, Panipat, Sirsa and Yamunanagar districts.

(b) With a view to prevent water shortage, Government of Punjab has taken the steps like use of Laser Land Leveler, promulgation of 'The Punjab Preservation of Sub Soil Water Ordinance, 2008', diversification from Paddy to less water consuming crops, use of water saving techniques and capacity building & Training, etc.

The Haryana Government has also taken steps like launching of Mass Awareness Programmes for conservation and judicious use of water, introduction of a scheme titled "Accelerated Recharge to Groundwater", provision of subsidy on adoption of Drip/Sprinkler System for irrigation to prevent over exploitation of groundwater, popularizing growing of less water intensive crops in the areas where water table is declining, etc.

(c) As per information received from CGWB, Ground water is being over-exploited in both the States with rate of ground water development at 145 % in Punjab and 109 % in Haryana. The Government of Haryana has reported that requirement of water for agriculture at 62% intensity is about 31.90 Million Acre Feet (MAP), against the total availability from all resources of 18.75 MAF.

Outbreak of Avian Influenza

106. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of outbreak of Avian influenza in West Bengal and North Eastern States recently;

(b) if so, whether a Central team has been sent to the affected States and to ascertain the exact position of the outbreak;

(c) if so, the details of the report furnished by the Central team; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check spread of Avian influenza in the Country?

12.00 NOON

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) On the occurrence of Avian Influenza in Assam, West Bengal and Sikkim recently, the Central teams were deputed to aid and advise these States in control and containment operations. These teams submitted daily reports on the progress of the operations.

(d) The steps undertaken by the Government to prevent spread of the infection, *inter alia,* include culling of the entire poultry population in the affected zone covering a radius of 3 kilometers from the foci of infection, surveillance of poultry against the disease, training of veterinary personnel to tackle Avian Influenza and spreading awareness in the general public on precautions required in handling poultry.

PROCLAMATION UNDER ARTICLE 356 OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Proclamation [G.S.R. No. 33(E)], issued by the President on the 19th January, 2009, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Jharkhand, under clause (3) of the said article. [Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 10445/09]

(ii) Order [G.S.R. No. 34(E)], dated the 19th January, 2009, made by the President, under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation. [Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 10446/09]

(iii) Report of the Governor of Jharkhand, dated the 16th January, 2009 to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation. [Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 10447/09]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Two Hundred and Fourteenth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President.

(1) The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2008.

(2) The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2008.

(3) The Indian Maritime University Bill, 2008.

(4) The National Waterway (Talcher-Dhamra Stretch of Rivers Geonkhali-Charbatia Stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra Stretch of Matai River and Mahanadi Delta Rivers) Bill, 2008.